Council Proceedings.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, January, 17, 1887.

The Aldermen-elect met in the Council Chamber at noon, and the members having filed their declaration of office took their seats. Mayor Hodgens occupied the chair, and the members present were Ald. Taylor, Jarvis, Davis, McDonald, Greer, Moule, Bowman, Hook, Stringer, Moore, Vining, Taylor, Dreaney, McIntosh, Heaman.

His Worship then presented to the Council Mayor elect Cowan, who assumed his seat. In doing this ex-Mayor Hodgens expressed the hope that the Council of 1887 would give to their Mayor the same liberal support which the Council of last year had accorded to himself, for he was satisfied that gentleman was fully qualified to fill the position. There were many things which the past Council had accomplished in the past year for the benefit of the city; but there were yet a great many things to be done, and he believed the new Council were quite capable of dealing with them. He would be glad to give any assistance in his power to facilitate their business. Some transactions in regard to railway matters had, of necessity come through in his name, and he was perfectly willing at any time to transfer all rights to the Mayor, if asked to do so. He hoped everything would be harmonious during the year.

Mayor-elect Cowan said after the very flattering remarks of His Worship he felt considerable diffidence in assuming the position, for it seemed to him the people had more confidence in him than he had in himself. But when he looked back and saw how the people had expressed such overwhelming confidence in him it impelled him with new life to go forward in his duty. In looking around the Board he noticed the absence of many faces that had done good service in the Council, and had earned a good record for themselves. Some had chosen fit to retire, and others had been beaten—which was no disgrace. He took the position, intending honestly to carry out all that devolved upon him, and he believed if a man was honest in his intention to do right he would ultimately accomplish his object. In looking over the members of the present Council he thought they would compare favorably with any that had preceded them. It was quite true that many were new men, but he hoped all would give him whatever support they could, as his intention was to deal rightly by all classes of people independent of politics, creed or color. He desired them to make the interests of the city paramount to all others, and wished to impress on the members that they should inaugurate a system of economy. There was no doubt the people were heavily taxed, and if they could possibly economize it was their duty to do so, and then they would do well. It was difficult to reduce the expenditure much, but he only hoped they would do as well as their predecessors, who had managed to reduce the rate some He pointed out that nearly three fourths of the expenditure was uncontrollable, and if they could possibly retrench they should try to do so on the roads and sidewalks by only making the necessary expenditure for repairs. Besides the general questions that would come before them during the year, there would be several special matters One was that of the Fair Grounds He had advocated the sale of these grounds, and was glad it had been done, and the city now received a large revenue from the property. The London Trust now had on hand some $30,000, which was available for the purchase of new grounds, and the money realized from a portion of the Military Grounds that had been sold could also be employed for the same purpose. The next question would be that of the extension of the Water-works. The Commissioners recommended an increase in the supply. He did not know whether that was necessary or not, but before they agreed to any money that should have come into the